

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A composition comprising:
 - (a) a liquid carrier;
 - (b) fibers or particles dispersed or suspended therein; and
 - (c) a sulfonic dispersant with a molecular weight up to about 700 suitable for wetting, dispersing or suspending said fibers in said aqueous liquid carrier; provided that when (b) is particles, then the amount of (c) is up to about 5% by weight of the composition;
wherein component (b) comprises one or more fibers selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, microglass, carbon fibers, coated carbon fibers, polyester fibers, polyimide fibers, polyamide fibers, acrylic fiber, cellulose fibers, rayon, nylon, asbestos, and polyvinyl chloride fibers.
2. ***(Original)*** The composition of claim 1 wherein the liquid carrier comprises water.
3. ***(Original)*** The composition of claim 1 wherein the liquid carrier comprises water and at least one co-solvent.
4. ***(Original)*** The composition of claim 3 wherein the co-solvent comprises an alcohol, acetone or dimethylformamide or combination thereof.
5. ***(Original)*** The composition of claim 1 wherein the liquid carrier comprises an alcohol, acetone or dimethylformamide or combination thereof.
6. ***(Cancelled)***
7. ***(Currently Amended)*** The composition of ~~claim 6~~claim 1 wherein the fiber is fiberglass.
8. ***(Original)*** The composition of claim 1 wherein the particles are selected from the group consisting of glass, glass microballoons, alumina, basalt, silica, carbon black, titanium dioxide, and gypsum.

9. *(Original)* The composition of claim 1 wherein the sulfonic dispersant comprises a hydrocarbylamido-alkanesulfonic acid or a salt thereof.
10. *(Original)* The composition of claim 9 wherein the sulfonic dispersant is 2 acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid or a salt thereof.
11. *(Original)* The composition of claim 1, wherein the sulfonic dispersant is present in an amount of about 10-1000 ppm.
12. *(Original)* The composition of claim 1, further comprising an additive to modify the pH of said composition to a desired pH range.
13. *(Original)* The composition of claim 12, wherein the pH range is about 1-11.
14. *(Original)* The composition of claim 1, further comprising incorporating into the composition a thickener, a biocide, a binder or a defoamer.
15. *(Currently Amended)* A method for suspending or dispersing fibers or particles in an aqueous liquid carrier, comprising the step combining:
 - (a) combining
 - (i) an aqueous liquid carrier
 - (ii) fibers or particles; and
 - (iii) a sulfonic dispersant with a molecular weight up to about 700 suitable for wetting, dispersing or suspending said fibers in said aqueous liquid carrier; provided that when (a)(ii) is particles, then the amount of (a)(iii) is up to about 5% by weight of the composition; and
 - (b) mixing the resulting composition;
wherein component (b) comprises one or more fibers selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, microglass, carbon fibers, coated carbon fibers, polyester fibers, polyimide fibers, polyamide fibers, acrylic fiber, cellulose fibers, rayon, nylon, asbestos, and polyvinyl chloride fibers.

16. (*Cancelled*)

17. (*Currently Amended*) The composition method of claim 15 wherein said 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid or salt thereof is present in an amount of about 25-400ppm.

18. (*Currently Amended*) A method for preparing a non-woven mat of fibrous material, comprising the steps of:

(a) combining

(i) an aqueous medium ;

(ii) fibers; and

(iii) a sulfonic dispersant with a molecular weight up to about 700 suitable for wetting, dispersing or suspending said fibers in said aqueous medium;

(b) mixing the resulting composition;

(c) transferring said composition to a mat-forming device; and

(d) removing the aqueous medium from the composition;

wherein component (a)(ii) comprises one or more fibers selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, microglass, carbon fibers, coated carbon fibers, polyester fibers, polyimide fibers, polyamide fibers, acrylic fiber, cellulose fibers, rayon, nylon, asbestos, and polyvinyl chloride fibers.

19. (*Original*) The method of claim 18 further comprising incorporating into the composition a thickener, a biocide, a binder or a defoamer.

20. (*Original*) The method of claim 18, further comprising introducing an additive to modify the pH of the said composition to a desired pH range.